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Agenda item 75

Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Rastislav **Gabriel** (Slovakia)

I. Introduction

1. The item entitled:

“Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session:

“(a) Report of the Disarmament Commission;

“(b) Report of the Conference on Disarmament;

“(c) Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters;

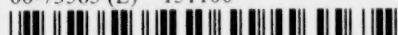
“(d) United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research;

“(e) Disarmament Week”

was included in the provisional agenda of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolutions 38/183 O of 20 December 1983, 39/148 H of 17 December 1984, 50/72 B of 12 December 1995 and 54/56 A and B of 1 December 1999.

2. At its 9th plenary meeting on 11 September 2000, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 14 September 2000, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 65 to 81, which was held at the 3rd to 13th meetings, from 2 to 13 October (see A/C.1/55/PV.3-13). Thematic discussions on the items were held,



and draft resolutions were introduced and considered, at the 14th to 21st meetings, from 13 to 23 October (see A/C.1/55/PV.14-21). Action on all draft resolutions was taken at the 22nd to 28th meetings, from 25 October to 1 November (see A/C.1/55/PV.22-28).

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

- (a) Report of the Conference on Disarmament;¹
- (b) Report of the Disarmament Commission;²
- (c) Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters (A/55/349);
- (d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (A/55/267).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.3/Rev.1

5. At the 21st meeting, on 23 October, the representative of France, on behalf of Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, the Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Paraguay, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Twentieth anniversary of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research" (A/C.1/55/L.3/Rev.1). Subsequently, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Malta and Slovenia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At its 23rd meeting, on 26 October, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.3/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 13, draft resolution A).

B. Draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.5

7. At the 12th meeting, on 12 October, the representative of Bulgaria introduced a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Conference on Disarmament" (A/C.1/55/L.5).

8. At its 23rd meeting, on 26 October, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.5 without a vote (see para. 13, draft resolution B).

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/55/27).*

² *Ibid., Supplement No. 42 (A/55/42).*

C. Draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.26

9. At the 17th meeting, on 18 October, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of Argentina, Armenia, Benin, Ghana, Guatemala, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Luxembourg, Monaco, Sierra Leone and Venezuela, introduced draft resolution entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission" (A/C.1/55/L.26).

10. At its 23rd meeting, on 26 October, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.26 without a vote (see para.13, draft resolution C).

D. Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters

11. No proposal was submitted and no action was taken under sub-item (c).

E. Disarmament Week

12. No proposal was submitted and no action was taken under sub-item (e).

III. Recommendations of the First Committee

13. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution A Twentieth anniversary of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 34/83 M of 11 December 1979, in which it requested the Secretary-General to establish the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research on the basis of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General,³

Reaffirming its resolution 39/148 H of 17 December 1984, in which it approved the statute of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, renewed the invitation to Governments to consider making voluntary contributions to the Institute and requested the Secretary-General to continue to give the Institute administrative and other support,

Recalling its resolution 45/62 G of 4 December 1990 on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Institute,

Considering the continuing need for the international community to have access to independent and in-depth research on security issues and prospects for disarmament, taking note of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services

³ A/34/589.

on the in-depth evaluation of the disarmament programme,⁴ in which the Office indicated the erosion of the value of the United Nations subvention to the Institute in real terms and recommended the development of proposals for alleviating difficulties regarding the current financial and organizational arrangements adopted in implementation of the statute of the Institute and that those proposals be submitted to the General Assembly for consideration at its fifty-fifth session, and having considered the annual report of the Director of the Institute and report of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters in its capacity as the Board of Trustees of the Institute,⁵ in which hope was expressed that the United Nations subvention to the Institute would be restored to its pre-1996 level and adjusted for inflation,

1. *Welcomes* the twentieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research;
2. *Recognizes* the importance and high quality of the work of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research;
3. *Reiterates* its conviction that the Institute should continue to conduct independent research on problems relating to disarmament and security and to undertake specialized research requiring a high degree of expertise;
4. *Requests* all Member States to consider making financial contributions to the Institute in order to ensure its viability and the quality of its work over the long term;
5. *Recommends* that the Secretary-General seek ways to increase the funding of the Institute, within existing resources.

Draft resolution B

Report of the Conference on Disarmament

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Conference on Disarmament,⁶

Convinced that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community, has the primary role in substantive negotiations on priority questions of disarmament,

Recognizing the need to conduct multilateral negotiations with the aim of reaching concrete agreements,

Recalling, in this respect, that the Conference has a number of urgent and important issues for negotiation,

1. *Reaffirms* the role of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community;
2. *Urges* the Conference to fulfil that role in the light of the evolving international situation, with a view to making early substantive progress on priority items on its agenda;

⁴ E/AC.51/1999/2.

⁵ See A/55/267.

⁶ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifth-fifth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/55/27).*

3. *Welcomes* the strong collective interest of the Conference in commencing substantive work as soon as possible during its 2001 session;
4. *Also welcomes* the decision of the Conference to request its President to conduct jointly with the incoming President intensive consultations during the inter-sessional period in order to try to achieve this goal, as expressed in paragraph 35 of the report of the Conference;⁶
5. *Encourages* the Conference to continue the ongoing review of its membership, agenda and methods of work;
6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure the provision to the Conference of adequate administrative, substantive and conference support services;
7. *Requests* the Conference to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session;
8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item entitled "Report of the Conference on Disarmament".

Draft resolution C

Report of the Disarmament Commission

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Disarmament Commission,⁷

Recalling its resolutions 47/54 A of 9 December 1992, 47/54 G of 21 April 1993, 48/77 A of 16 December 1993, 49/77 A of 15 December 1994, 50/72 D of 12 December 1995, 51/47 B of 10 December 1996, 52/40 B of 9 December 1997, 53/79 A of 4 December 1998 and 54/56 A of 1 December 1999,

Considering the role that the Disarmament Commission has been called upon to play and the contribution that it should make in examining and submitting recommendations on various problems in the field of disarmament and in the promotion of the implementation of the relevant decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session,

Bearing in mind its decision 52/492 of 8 September 1998,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Disarmament Commission;⁷
2. *Reaffirms* the importance of further enhancing dialogue and cooperation among the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament;
3. *Also reaffirms* the role of the Disarmament Commission as the specialized, deliberative body within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery that allows for in-depth deliberations on specific disarmament issues, leading to the submission of concrete recommendations on those issues;
4. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to continue its work in accordance with its mandate, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of

⁷ Ibid., Supplement No. 42 (A/55/42).

the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,⁸ and with paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution 37/78 H of 9 December 1982, and to that end to make every effort to achieve specific recommendations on the items of its agenda, taking into account the adopted "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission";⁹

5. *Recommends* that the Disarmament Commission, at its 2000 organizational session, adopt the following items for consideration at its 2001 substantive session:

- (a) Ways and means to achieve nuclear disarmament;
- (b) Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms;

6. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to meet for a period not exceeding three weeks during 2001 and to submit a substantive report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Disarmament Commission the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament,¹⁰ together with all the official records of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly relating to disarmament matters, and to render all assistance that the Commission may require for implementing the present resolution;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full provision to the Disarmament Commission and its subsidiary bodies of interpretation and translation facilities in the official languages and to assign, as a matter of priority, all the necessary resources and services, including verbatim records, to that end;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission".

⁸ Resolution S-10/2.

⁹ A/CN.10/137.

¹⁰ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/55/27)*.